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Rec'd: JULY 14, 1959

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 68, JULY 14, 8 P.M.

SENT DEPARTMENT 68, BONN 65; REPEATED INFORMATION GENEVA 13.
POLAD USAREUR UNNUMBERED

GENEVA FOR USDEL

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REFERENCE: OURTEL 939 TO BONN, 1052 DEPT, 70 GENEVA.

GOVERNING MAYOR WILLY BRANDT HELD SECOND INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH CONSULAR CORPS JULY 13 ON PRESENT BERLIN SITUATION AND DEVOTED PRACTICALLY ENTIRE 2 1/2 HOUR SESSION TO WESTERN PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN JUNE 16 PAPER WESTERN FOMINS GAVE GROMYKO. BRANDT STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. REGRETTED THAT BERLIN OFFICIALS NOT CONSULTED BEFORE PAPER DELIVERED AS PRIOR CONSULTATION PROBABLY COULD HAVE AVOIDED MANY AMBIGUITIES PAPER CONTAINS;

2. SAID PAPER CONTAINS MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS THAT CAN BE MADE ON BERLIN WITHOUT SURRENDER OF BASIC RIGHTS AND IS THUS POOR BASIS UPON WHICH TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS;

3. SAID THAT WHATEVER LEVEL OF ALLIED TROOP STRENGTH MAINTAINED BERLIN IS IN EFFECT A TOKEN FORCE BUT OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS WOULD DISTORT MEANING OF ANY REDUCTION AND CLAIM RIGHT TO REGULATE TROOP STRENGTH. BELIEVES IN REALITY THAT ANY REDUCTION FROM PRESENT LEVELS WOULD CREATE HAZARD TO PHYSICAL SECURITY OF BERLIN BY DISTURBING EXISTING PROPORTION OF STRENGTH BETWEEN MILITARY AND POLICE UNITS;

4. STATED THAT PROVISIONS IN JUNE 16 PAPER FOR CURTAILMENT OF PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO

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ENFORCE, AND WOULD LEAD TO SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO CURTAIL FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS IN WEST BERLIN;

5. EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO FORBID ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN BUT REMARKED AGENCIES WOULD ONLY GO UNDERGROUND.

6. BELIEVES ANY SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR SETTLING BERLIN PROBLEM WOULD INCLUDE SOME FORMULA FOR RECOGNITION OF GDR.

7. HOPES WESTERN POWERS WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS LEGALITY OF THEIR POSITION IN BERLIN AND INSIST UPON EXERCISING ALL THEIR RIGHTS UNTIL ALL-GERMAN QUESTION SETTLED.

CONSENSUS OF CONSULAR CORPS IS THAT BRANDT INTRODUCED NO NEW POINTS BUT MERELY REAFFIRMED FORMER POSITION.

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